

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-15 (Canceled).

Claim 16 (Currently Amended): A method of increasing precision in controlling a path of a product through a roller leveler including ~~a fixed support stand~~, two leveling assemblies including parallel rolls, the assemblies being placed above and below ~~a strip~~ the product respectively, ~~members for setting configured to set~~ imbrications of the rolls, ~~and means for measuring leveling forces at least on two sides of the roller leveler~~, the method comprising:

presetting the imbrications by using a theoretical-presetting model giving at least one including a reference value for presetting the imbrications;

measuring, during a leveling operation, at least one an absolute value of separation value of the leveling rolls is measured directly, and comparing the at least one value being compared with the reference value values; and

~~the members for setting the position of the leveling rolls are acted upon to keep the measured values value equal to the reference value values with increased precision so as to keep the path of the product to be leveled in the leveler in accordance with an undulation of the leveled product predicted by the presetting model for implementing the leveling operation.~~

Claim 17 (Currently Amended): The method of increasing the control of the path of the product in a leveler as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

~~taking wherein~~ first and second measurements of the ~~value of the separation absolute~~
~~separation value~~ of the leveling rolls ~~are taken~~, the first measurement taken at an entry side of
the leveler and the second measurement at an exit side of the leveler, respectively, ~~wherein~~
~~comparing~~ each of the measurements ~~is compared~~ with the reference value given by
the model; and ~~wherein the members for~~
setting the position of the leveling rolls, at the entry and exit of the leveler,
respectively, ~~are acted upon~~ to keep the measured value equal to the reference value with
~~increased precision~~ to achieve a decrease in degree of a plastic deformation of the leveled
product predicted by the presetting model ~~for implementing the leveling operation.~~

Claim 18 (Currently Amended): The method of controlling the path of the product
through a leveler as claimed in claim 16, further comprising:

measuring ~~wherein a measurement of the value of the absolute separation value of~~
each of the leveling rolls;

comparing ~~is taken and~~ each of the measurements ~~is compared~~ with the reference
value given by the presetting model; and

~~wherein individual members for~~ setting the position of each of the leveling rolls ~~is~~
~~acted upon~~ to keep the measured value equal to the reference value ~~with increased precision~~
so as to achieve and undulation of the leveled product and decrease in degree of plastic
deformation of the leveled product that are predicted by the presetting model ~~for~~
~~implementing the leveling operation.~~

Claim 19 (Currently Amended): The method of controlling the path of the product
through a leveler as claimed in claim 16, ~~wherein~~ further comprising:

measuring leveling forces on an entry side and an exit side of the leveler;

equileveling of the work rolls is ~~carried out~~ using a flat machined plate of known thickness by modifying the position of the work rolls in a differential manner by a lateral tilt from one side onto the other side so as to equalize the leveling forces on the two sides of the leveler ~~that are measured by the measurement devices~~.

Claim 20 (Currently Amended): The method of controlling the path of the product through a leveler as claimed in claim 19, wherein ~~the said~~ equileveling is ~~carried out further~~ comprises:

using a running plate by modifying the position of the work rolls in a differential manner by a lateral tilt from one side onto the other_; and

~~wherein equalizing~~ average values of the forces recorded by said measuring leveling forces ~~the measurement devices on each side during a run are equalized with the running plate~~.

Claim 21 (Currently Amended): A parallel-roll leveling installation for implementing the method as claimed in claim 16, comprising:

a fixed support stand;

two leveler assemblies of parallel rolls placed above and below the ~~strip~~ product respectively;

~~devices for setting~~ configured to set the imbrication of the rolls;

~~means for measuring~~ a device configured to measure leveling forces at least on each side of the leveler; and

at least one device ~~enabling separation~~ configured to separate of the leveling rolls at at least one point ~~to be measured directly~~ and to measure the separation of the rolls.

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): The parallel-roll leveling installation as claimed in claim 21, further comprising:

at least one electronic device ~~for slaving~~ configured to control the devices for setting the imbrication so that the measured separation of the leveling rolls will be controlled to a theoretical value given by a model ~~by acting on the imbrication setting devices.~~

Claim 23 (Currently Amended): The parallel-roll leveling installation as claimed in claim 22, wherein the ~~imbrication setting devices~~ for setting the imbrication are hydraulically controlled.

Claim 24 (Currently Amended): The parallel-roll leveling installation as claimed in claim 21, further comprising:

a device ~~enabling separation~~ configured to separate ~~of the leveling rolls at at least first and second points, and configured to measure the separation of the rolls to be measured directly,~~ the first point located in an entry zone and the second point located in an exit zone of the leveler.

Claim 25 (Currently Amended): The parallel-roll leveling installation as claimed in claim 24, further comprising:

at least one electronic device ~~for slaving~~ configured to control a measured separation of the leveling rolls located in the entry zone and in the exit zone of the leveler respectively to the theoretical value given by a model for the separation of the rolls located in the entry zone and the exit zone of the leveler respectively, by acting independently on the devices ~~for setting~~ configured to set the imbrication of the rolls in each of the entry and exit zones respectively.

Claim 26 (Currently Amended): The parallel-roll leveling installation as claimed in claim 25, wherein the ~~imbrication-setting~~ devices configured to set the imbrication are hydraulically controlled.

Claim 27 (Currently Amended): The parallel-roll leveling installation as claimed in claim 21, further comprising:

a device ~~enabling separation~~ configured to separate of each pair of leveling work rolls ~~and to be measured~~ measure the separation directly and separately.

Claim 28 (Currently Amended): The parallel-roll leveling installation as claimed in claim 27, further comprising:

at least one ~~means for individually setting~~ device configured to individually set a position of each leveling roll; and

-at least one electronic device ~~for slaving~~ configured to control a measured separation of each of the leveling rolls to the theoretical value given by a model for the separation of each of the rolls by acting independently on ~~their~~ the respective ~~imbrication-setting~~ device configured to set the imbrication.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): The parallel-roll leveling installation as claimed in claim 28, wherein the device ~~for setting~~ configured to set the imbrication of each roll is hydraulically controlled.

Claim 30 (Currently Amended): The parallel-roll leveling installation as claimed in claim 23, wherein the at least one electronic device ~~for slaving~~ configured to control the

measured separation of the leveling rolls to the theoretical value given by the model that the installation ~~includes makes it possible to set~~ is further configured to set a differential lateral tilt of the rolls on one side relative to the other side with respect to a setpoint value.